

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06154 121302Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----019783 121303Z /43

O R 121231Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3506  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6154

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, MASS, IR, SO  
SUBJ: IRANIAN MILITARY MISSION TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 159636, (B) STATE 161221, (C) TEHRAN 6071

1. DURING AUDIENCE WITH SHAH ON OTHER MATTERS JULY 12, I  
RAISED QUESTION OF IRAN MILITARY MISSION TO SOMALIA WHICH DCM  
HAD DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER (REFS A & C). IN SO DOING,  
I REITERATED US CAUTION ABOUT SOMALI SITUATION AND OUR INTEREST  
IN IRANIAN OBSERVATIONS.

2. SHAH SAID HE SHARED OUR CAUTION AND WAS ALSO PUZZLED  
BY SOME ASPECTS OF SOMALI SITUATION. SINCE MANY FEATURES OF  
SOMALI SCENE WERE OF ARCANE ARAB QUALITY, HE DOUBTED HIS  
MISSION WOULD BE ABLE TO PRODUCE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR PICTURE,  
BUT THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST.

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3. SHAH SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SADAT ABOUT  
SOMALIA. EGYPTIANS SEEM VERY EXERCISED ABOUT SITUATION AND  
HAVE URGED IRAN TO BE FORTHCOMING. SADAT HAD EVEN EN-  
COURAGED PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE TO MAKE TRIP TO TEHRAN AND  
SHAH HAD T ASK SADAT TO TURN HIM OFF. HE SUGGESTED HE GO  
TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SHAH'S DIRECT QUESTION, I TOLD HIM WE HAD RECEIVED EXPLICIT REQUEST FROM SOMALIS FOR WEAPONS. LIKE THE REQUEST TO IRAN, THE WEAPONS SOUGHT WERE SUITABLE FOR TRANSFER TO GUERRILLAS AND MADE THE ISSUE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE.

5. IN BROAD TERMS, I SKETCHED OUT SOME OF ACTIONS WE MIGHT CONTEMPLATE, AS LISTED PARA 7 REF B. SHAH SAID THAT ALL THOSE THINGS WOULD BE GOOD MEASURES, BUT THEY WOULD STILL LEAVE PENDING THE GUT ISSUE OF WHETHER SOMALIA SHOULD RECEIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM NON-SOVIET SOURCES.

6. COMMENT: IT IS OUR ESTIMATE THAT SHAH WILL NOT RPT NOT WISH GET OUT AHEAD OF US ON SOMALI QUESTION. QUITE APART FROM MDAP LIMITATIONS ON TRANSFER OF ARMS OF US ORIGIN, THERE ARE OTHER LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY HIS CAUTIOUS POLICY OF TREATING WITH SOVIETS AND HIS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION. NEVERTHELESS, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO JOIN IN ANY BROADLY BASED EXERCISE, PREFERABLY LED BY US, TO PUT A DENT IN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN HORN OF AFRICA AND TO SWING SOMALIA OUT OF SOVIET ORBIT. HE WOULD ALSO CLEARLY LIKE TO SEE SAUDI ARABIA OVERTLY ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT WITH SOMALI "ARAB BROTHERS". A U.S. POLICY OF STRINGING THE SOMALIS ALONG WITHOUT DECISIVE ACTION WILL BE UNDERSTOOD BY SHAH, IN VIEW OF HIS OWN GRASP OF THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE CASE. BUT SUCH A POLICY WILL DO LITTLE TO RESOLVE HIS OWN DILEMMAS AND WILL LEAVE HIM INDEFINITELY IN CURRENT LIMBO. HE PROBABLY ASSUEMS WE  
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OUGHT TO HAVE ADEQUATE SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTACH ADEQUATE CONDITIONS TO JUSTIFY A MORE DECISIVE POLICY, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. IN ANY EVENT, HE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK TO US FOR LEADERSHIP AND, HOPEFULLY, FOR GUIDANCE.  
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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